

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application and in response to the Official Action of November 27, 2007.

Record is also made of a telephone interview between applicant's representative and the Examiner which took place on February 19, 2008. The Examiner is thanked for her help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview, the present application was extensively discussed in light of the final rejection of claims 16-19, 21-22, and applicant's representative pointed out to the differences between the subject matter of the applied references and the subject matter according to the present invention. More specifically, applicant's representative contended that none of the applied references teaches or suggests the provision of an open-ended cooling channel protrusion which fluidly extends the cooling channel in axial prolongation for allowing a discharge of coolant in axial direction from the housing to the outside.

The Examiner agreed that the subject matter of independent claim 16 seems to be distinguishable over the prior art of record, if amended accordingly. However, the Examiner also noted that an updated search is needed to make a final determination about patentability of claim 16.

As a result of the interview, applicant now submits amendments to claim 16 which are drawn up in accordance with the agreement at the interview. In addition, applicant has amended the other independent claim 21 to incorporate the same changes that have been made to claim 16.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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